

Rockford Historic Preservation Commission

November 17, 2015 – 5:00 PM – City Hall Conference Room B

Present: Dave Coady Gary Carlson, Robert McCarthy, Matthew Wolf, Jeffrey Kirk, Vickie Krueger

Absent: Alderman Karen Elyea

Staff: Andrew Pieri, Andrea Hinrichs, Matthew Vitner

Other: Mark Robinson

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Dave Coady

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

6 members present and 1 absent – Quorum.

Public Hearing

None at this meeting

Approval of Minutes

N/A

Unfinished Business

Certificate of Appropriateness Application – 803 Garfield Avenue

Andrea Hinrichs, Housing Rehab Specialist with the City of Rockford, came to the Commission to explain that the City is working with the owner of this property to bring it up to local building code standards. The denial of the COA because she proposed vinyl windows meant the entire project was, therefore, no longer eligible for HUD rehabilitation funding. Discussion pursued about the uniqueness of the existing but rotting windows. Ms. Hinrichs clarified that the funding would cover rehabbing the existing windows to meet the historic preservation requirements but the increase would require the owner contribute more to the total cost as the HUD funds were capped. The owner already exceeded that amount and was looking for other options.

A **MOTION** was made by Matthew Wolff to **DENY** the COA to allow the vinyl windows. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Robert McCarthy and **CARRIED** by a vote of **6-0**.

New Business

Certificate of Appropriateness – 121 South Main Street

City Engineer Matt Vitner made a presentation to the Commission related to the demolition of an old garage attached to the rear of the old Chick Hotel. There is an old coal chute that has collapsed and it is taking on water, gravel and mud. The garage at the rear of the building was built over the top of the chute. The garage is in disrepair and Public Works would like to demolish it and fill in the old chute. They have already relocated the utilities in anticipation of the demolition.

They would only fill in the old chute and associated slab with gravel and they would repave as a part of the alley repairs proposed for next year.

A **MOTION** was made by Dave Coady to **APPROVE** the certificate of appropriateness as presented. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Vickie Krueger and **CARRIED** by a vote of **6-0**.

Unfinished Business

Staff realized that they took the applications out of order so the Commission went back to unfinished business.

Request for Opinion - 134 North Main Street

Mark Robinson of Supply Core made a follow-up presentation to the Commission related to the renovation and proposed addition to a property located at 134 North Main Street. Mr. Robinson provided renderings of the building which highlighted two design options for the exterior of the structure. Commission members advised staff to write a letter to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) supporting the removal of the exterior finish, approval of the proposed addition and approval of either of the elevations as proposed but favored the design with the lower cornice feature above the first floor.

A **MOTION** was made by Gary Carlson to **APPROVE** the design as indicated in the presentation and write a letter to IHPA. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Robert McCarthy and **CARRIED** by a vote of **6-0**.

Communication and staff report

Staff notified the Commission that they needed to schedule a public hearing for the purpose of discussing Local Landmark status for the Booker Washington Center. Therefore, a special meeting would be held on December 1, 2015.

Adjournment

With no other business Robert McCarthy made a **MOTION** to **ADJOURN**. The **MOTION** was **SECONDED** by Gary Carlson and **CARRIED** by a vote of **6-0**.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Submitted by Andrew Pieri – Historic Preservation Commission Secretary